

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 DHA-05 PM-05 L-03 NSC-05

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06

PRS-01 SP-02 /059 W

-----022572 191241Z /53

R 171300Z SEP 77

FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6701

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

USUN NEW YORK 286

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE JOHANNESBURG 2488

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SHUM, PINS, PINT, SF

SUBJECT: WOODS CHALLENGES KRUGER TO RESIGN IF POST MORTEM SHOWS BIKO
DID NOT

DIE FROM HUNGER STRIKE

REF: CAPE TOWN 1339

1. DONALD WOODS, MORE OR LESS REPEATING HIS SPEECH AT UCT YESTERDAY,
CHALLENGED MINISTER OF JUSTICE KRUGER TO PUT HIS JOB ON THE LINE,
AS WOODS WOULD DO HIS, AND AWAIT THE RESULTS OF THE POST MORTEM
TO SEE WHO WAS TELLING THE TRUTH ABOUT STEVE BIKO'S DEATH.

WOODS, SPEAKING BEFORE A FULL HOUSE AT WITS UNIVERSITY'S GREAT
HALL, REPEATED HIS CHALLENGE SEVERAL TIMES STATING HE PLEDGED TO
RESIGN AS EDITOR OF DAILY DISPATCH IF AUTOPSY SHOWED BIKO DIED OF
HUNGER STRIKE (ON CONDITION KRUGER ALSO WOULD COMMIT HIMSELF TO
RESIGN IF AUTOPSY FINDINGS DID NOT SUPPORT HUNGER STRIKE THEORY).

2. FROM HIS MANNER, WOODS CLEARLY SENSES KRUGER'S PREDICAMENT AND
SEEMS TO BE FIRMLY OF THE OPINION THAT KRUGER CANNOT PROVE HIS
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ALLEGATION THAT BIKO DIED FROM STARVATION.

3. OF ADDITIONAL INTEREST WAS WOODS' EMPHASIS ON KRUGER'S QUOTE
"BIKO WAS NOT TOUCHED". WOODS TOLD HIS AUDIENCE TO KEEP
KRUGER'S QUOTE IN MIND WHEN THE RESULTS OF THE POST MORTEM ARE
MADE KNOWN. WOODS FOLLOWED THIS STATEMENT WITH AN EMOTIONAL
"THEN WE'LL KNOW WHO'S TELLING THE TRUTH".

4. FOR THEIR PART, WITS STUDENTS APPLAUDED WOODS FREQUENTLY,
GIVING HIM A STANDING OVATION AT THE END OF HIS PRESENTATION.
JOHNSON

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Sent Date: 17-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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TAGS: SHUM, PINS, PINT, SF, (WOODS, DONALD), (BIKO, STEVE), (KRUGER, JT)
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